

Russell Cave

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Russell Cave
National Monument



Procedures/Activities: Introduction:

1. Introduce Mississippian medicine men to students by viewing Medicine Men PowerPoint.

- While viewing PowerPoint, compare and contrast Mississippian time period and modern-day lifestyles.
- Compare/Contrast: clothing/accessories, medicine, living/working areas
- Venn Diagram may be used if time permits
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Lesson:

2. Read *Leaf Man* by Louis Ehler to students. Allow students to view various types of leaves used to make the leaf creatures.

- Discuss with students the season in which this story takes place
- Tell students that many of these plants were used by medicine men to make medicine long ago.

3. Group students in groups of 3-4

4. Send one student to get 1 basket of supplies for the group
 1. Suggest students handle leaves and seeds with care.
 2. Allow 2 minutes for students to look at each item in the basket and talk to fellow group members about leaf/seed characteristics

5. View Medicinal plants PowerPoint

- After each plant slide, have students identify the leaf discussed from their collection of leaves according to the descriptions given.
- Groups should work together to locate each leaf.
- After identifying each leaf, have students discuss with their group members their experience with these plants.

Activity

Students will be using items from their basket to make their own Medicine Leaf Man.

6. Students should remove one piece of contact paper from their basket remove the protect paper exposing the adhesive side. (This might be tricky for some students. Assistance from another adult or peer helpers is recommended.)
7. Have students identify the Basswood by using the slideshow previously viewed. This will be the body of the medicine leaf man. Place this leaf in the middle of the adhesive side of the contact paper.
8. Repeat this step for additional body parts, make sure to use the previously viewed powerpoint for students to identify leaves with their groups:
 - Tulip Poplar: head
 - Sourwood: arms/legs
 - Red maple: hands
 - Black walnut: feet
9. After assembling Medicine Leaf Man, students should place the remaining contact paper strip on top of their creation to cover the leaves. Press firmly on and around leaves to remove bubbles and wrinkles from contact paper.
10. Students should then cut around the leaf man to give it a distinct shape, leaving about ½ inch border of contact paper around the edges to keep the leaves sealed together.
11. Students should then locate one sweetgum ball for the Medicine Leaf Man's mouth and two acorns for its eyes.
12. Teacher will then use a low-temp glue gun to glue on eyes and mouth.

Assessment Strategies:

Sumarize by asking these questions:

- Review with students the job of the Mississippian medicine man and medicinal leaves used to make their leaf man.
1. Optional informal assessment:
 - Kindergarten-1:
 - What was a Native American doctor called?
 - How was the medicine man different/ same from our doctor today?
 - What did the medicine man use to make people

feel better? Name a tree we discussed today and what it was used to cure.

-Grades 2-4: Multiple Choice/ Short Answer
assessment attached:

Extension:

- Writing: If I had been a medicine man/woman long ago, I would have... (include details such as, your Native American name, what plants you have in your mound, and a sickness you have helped cure with your medicinal plants)
- Science:
 - Sort leaves according to similar characteristics such as. jagged edges/smooth edges, points, color (if collected in autumn)
 - Leaf Rubbings

Remediation:

PowerPoints may be reused throughout the activity and summary

Peer-tutors may be assigned to assist with leaf identification